

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 13 with:

FIGURES 7a-7c ~~FIGURES 7a-b~~ are block diagrams showing various embodiments of polarization controllers constructed according to the teachings of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16 with:

FIGURE 7d ~~FIGURE 7e~~ is a graph showing example switching speeds associated with one particular embodiment of the invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 46, line 12 with:

FIGURE 7d ~~FIGURE 7c~~ is a graph showing realized switching speeds using one particular embodiment of polarization controller 610, which implements MEMS based phase shift stages similar to the device depicted in FIGURE 3a. In this example, trace 152 shows a switching of the phase shift stages in response to a control voltage 150. As shown in this example, rise times of seven hundred micro-seconds have been obtained. Other switching speeds may be ascertainable, depending on the processing demands and particular device characteristics utilized. For example, faster switching speeds can be obtained using an embodiment similar to that shown in FIGURE 3b.